Office-bearers of AISBOF

2024. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 100 officers of State Bank of India do not attend to their daily work in the bank on the excuse of being office-bearers of the All India State Bank Officers Federation and Associations affiliated to it;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss suffered by the bank as a result thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken or is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. State Bank of India has reported that only one office bearer of All India State Bank Officers Federation *i.e.*, General Secretary of the Federation is granted full day duty relief for attending to organisational work. All other office bearers are required to perform full day's work, as in the case of other officers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Customs duty on import of palmolien oil

2025. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to customs duty on import of palmolien oil, it costs nearly double to the BPL card holders;

(b) whether Government of Gujarat has requested Government of India for exemption of customs duty in case of import of palmolien oil for distribution among BPL card holders; and

(c) whether Government are considering this matter favourably and by when the decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Government of Gujarat has informed that rise in prices of edible oils

has adversely affected consumers specially the below poverty line families and requested for reduction in customs duty on palmolien oil;

(c) Keeping in view the interest of both oil seed growers and consumers, the Government has decided not to make any change, in the customs duty rate on palmolien oil, for the present.

Restructuring of National Savings Organisation

2026. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under overall restructuring of the National Savings Organisation some regional offices have been replaced by regional Centres;

(b) if so, what are the parameters for such restructuring;

(c) whether Ahmedabad Regional Centre has been excluded in the new set up even though eleven per cent share of the total small saving in the country comes from Gujarat if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are considering the Government of Gujarat's request for reopening of the Ahmedabad Regional Office and if so; by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, the Government has decided to restructure the National Savings Organisation into a National Savings Institute (NSI) with headquarters at Nagpur and 10 regional centres at Chandigarh, Delhi, Lucknow, Guwahati, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur & Jaipur. The locations of these offices have been decided on the basis of small savings collections, concentration of agents in different States and even distribution of these centres in the country. Gujarat would be covered by the regional centre of NSI at Jaipur.

ATMs for physically challenged

2027. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Make ATMs accessible for the physically challenged" which appeared in the "Indian Express" dated the 17th October, 2002;